

# TATE FILM

## ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS' FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008-2013

The Wayward Canon presents Yoga Horror  
Tate Britain, Grand Saloon  
Saturday 15 March 2014, 19.00 – 22.30



Mark Aerial Waller, *Yoga Horror*, 2014 production still  
Courtesy the artist and Rodeo. Photograph by Moea Creugnet



Mark Aerial Waller, *Diagram for Yoga Horror 2012*,  
inkjet on paper. Courtesy the artist and Rodeo.

*Assembly: A Survey of Artists' Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013* is curated by Stuart Comer, formerly Tate, now chief curator Media and Performance, MoMA; George Clark, Tate Modern; and Melissa Blanchflower, Tate Britain; with independent curators Simon Payne and Andrew Vallance.

Tate Film is supported by  
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Bilge Ogut-Cumbusyan & Haro Cumbusyan

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Artist Mark Aerial Waller presents *Yoga Horror*: a new project in his ongoing series *The Wayward Canon*.

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## ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS' FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008 – 2013

*Assembly* is a major survey of internationally acclaimed single-screen artists' film and video. Including more than eighty artists, the list is drawn from thirty-six leading international film specialists who were invited to nominate outstanding recent works. Screenings take place at Tate Britain in the Clore Auditorium: on Sundays, feature length films are shown, and on Mondays curated programmes of shorter films are followed by discussions with invited speakers and the artists. Each weekly theme suggests a contested area of practice and prompts a dialogue that continues from one screening to the next, encouraging discussion and debate about contemporary film and video.

The popularity of film and video has surged during the last decade, with screenings occurring in numerous venues from galleries to film festivals, from television to online. The development of digital technology has particularly impacted the distribution, aesthetics and accessibility of artists' cinema. Reflecting this expanded field, *Assembly* is a unique opportunity to consider what is being produced here and now, throwing into relief and celebrating differences across various artists' practices in the medium.

## YOGA HORROR Mark Aerial Waller 2014, video, 128 min

*Yoga Horror* will occupy the convergent space of film viewing where the gallery exhibition overlaps with cinema and social gathering. This special event includes a screening of the British horror movie *Dead of Night* 1945 together with specially filmed sequences by Mark Aerial Waller and a yoga exercise video. *Dead of Night* is narrated through the half-remembered experience of the protagonist Walter Craig, whose recurring nightmare provides a recursive structure for a series of tales, where one form of consciousness slips into another, and where horror lies within slippages of logic and perception. This new production of *Yoga Horror* presents previously unseen footage constructed specially for the event.

It is a dynamic montage of spectatorship and memory, inviting the audience to engage with the gap between waking and dreaming, between the impossible and the real. These unique events explore the covert languages of cinema; the shadowy half-pronounced areas where humour, horror and truth co-exist.

### Boundary Language and Dead of Night

I made a work on *Dead of Night* within the context of my research organ, The Wayward Canon, where I considered the structure of the film in terms of set theory and Lacanian Psychoanalysis, inspired by the work of Donald Kunze's Boundary Language project at Penn State University.

Kunze presented *Dead of Night* in seminar notes, initially in a very sparse way, but since 2005 has developed further in the text *Dead of Night: Fantasy as fantastic*:

*Anthology, as a story-in-a-story, is the basis of the exposition function, where the experience of the work of art is turned at a right angle to consider its own validity. This 'chiaroscuro' allows the narrative to fold, swirl, pivot, and re-infect itself from the inside out – a pure case of Lacanian extimité.*

My addition to his research is to set up a haptic relationship to the audience's memory of the horror, by setting up a physical déjà-vu. I do this by inviting the audience to participate in following a yoga instructional video before watching *Dead of Night*. Then after watching the film I show a hybrid film, where the meeting scene from *Dead of Night* is performed by members of a yoga retreat who are performing to the same yoga video as the audience. This doubling links memories associated with the horror film to a physical feeling.

*Dead of Night* was written at an important historical point in western philosophy. At the time of its making, the Logical Empiricist philosophy of the likes of AJ Ayer was under criticism from the next generation, including Karl Popper, who were engaging with David Hume's problems of recursive logic; that the concept of induction (a proof that the sun will rise tomorrow as it did this morning) could only exist through the use of induction itself, and likewise that the need for empiricists to reduce an axiom to a perceivable phenomenon would require an infinitely recursive trail of observers to reach objectivity, and so was considered flawed. Walter Craig is unable to prove the truth of his perception, caught between dream, psychosis and paranormal activity.  
– Mark Aerial Waller, 2014

**Mark Aerial Waller (born 1969, UK)**  
Mark Aerial Waller is an artist based in London. His practice encompasses video, sculpture, drawing and event-based works. He is the founder of *The Wayward Canon* (2001-onwards), a platform for event-based interventions in cinematic practices. Recent solo exhibitions include *SO-LA*, Cell Projects, London (2012) and *Offering Transmissions*, Rodeo, Istanbul (2012) with group shows and projects, *Mindaugas Triennial*, the *11th Baltic Triennial of International Art*, CAC Vilnius, Lithuania (2012), *Random Acts*, ICA (2013) and the title work for *Superpower: Africa in Science Fiction*, Arnolfini (2012).

## EVENT SCHEDULE

*Yoga Horror* will consist of four sessions that will take place in the Grand Saloon. Tickets for the evening guarantees access to a minimum of two sessions. Sign-up for each session is available upon arrival on a first come basis.

**19.00** Yoga Horror begins

**19.15** Session 1: ONLY ROOM FOR ONE MORE (27 min) (Red)

**20.00** Session 2: SUBCONSCIOUS THINGY-MA-JIG (23 min) (Blue)

**20.30** Session 3: DRESS UP, SPEND A LOT OF MONEY (35 min) (Yellow)

**21.15** Session 4: DIDN'T I SEE YOU AT THE FOLIES BERGÈRE? (43 min) (Green)

**22.30** Yoga Horror ends

The members area will be open throughout the evening with a cash bar.

## CREDITS

*Yoga Horror* 2014, video, 128 min  
Mark Aerial Waller

## CAST

**Walter Craig** " [Isic] VomiTimoV Goldie

**Joan Courtland** Jo Price

**Elliott Foley** Jonathan Pembroke

**Sally O'Hara** Laura-Lisa Saunders

**Dr van Straaten** Ken Stamp

**Makeup/Hair:** Carmen Procopiuc & Erin Meldrum

**Production/Camera:** Sam Nightingale

**Sound:** Jacques Rogers

**Production:** Carole Dumoulin, Vassiliki Holeva

*Yoga Horror* was produced with support from Sylvia Kouvalis / Rodeo Gallery

*Dead of Night*, UK 1945

Directors: Alberto Cavalcanti, Robert Hamer, Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden

**Walter Craig** Mervyn Johns

**Joan Courtland** Googie Withers

**Elliott Foley** Roland Culver

**Sally O'Hara** Sally Ann Howes

**Dr van Stratten** Frederick Valk

*Dead of Night* screens courtesy of Studiocanal UK

The artist would like to thank Moea Creugnet, Maureen Monod and Alexandre Saden.

Image 1, 3, 5:  
*Dead of Night* 1945 production still  
Courtesy of Studiocanal UK

Image 2, 4, 6:  
Mark Aerial Waller, *Yoga Horror*, 2014 production still  
Courtesy the artist and Rodeo. Photograph by Moea Creugnet

